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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

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DATE: May 30, 1954

SUBJECT: Consultation Regarding Guatemala

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador of El Salvador Héctor David Castro
Assistant Secretary Henry F. Holland

COPIES TO: ARA - Ambassadors Donnelly and Pawley
ARA - Ambassador Dreier, Mr. Jamison
WID - Mr. Burrows, Mr. Fisher
WID - Mr. Leddy
Amembassy San Salvador - informally
Amembassy Guatemala - informally

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I explained to the Ambassador the U.S. proposal with respect to an OAS meeting, the resolution and sanctions that we proposed to adopt, the means of implementation which we have in mind and our reasons for feeling that the matter requires action at this time.

He stated that he was leaving for El Salvador tomorrow night in response to a cable from President Osorio telling him to be in the President's office on June 2.

He said that he feels certain that his government will support the plan and that it will be possible to obtain an overwhelming majority supporting it at the meeting. He was particularly pleased at the selection of Montevideo.

He suggested that it be the United States that initiate the movement, saying that if any other government did the remainder of the states would feel certain that the United States had persuaded it to act as a Trojan horse for us.

I told him that I felt that under the circumstances a regional meeting such as that suggested by President Figueres would be a mistake. He agreed and said that he would recommend to his President

against

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against any such meeting.

I recommended strongly that if his government decides to go with us on the plan it begin immediately the preparation its own case for presentation at the meeting. He agreed that he would recommend this.

He expressed his concern about the situation in Mexico, saying that he felt we should go ahead with or without Mexico's support. He said that he felt much of Mexico's opposition would come from the Foreign Minister who for years has demonstrated strong leftist inclinations. He said that in the United Nations votes Padilla Nervo had during a long period of time abstained on any votes where the result was unfavorable to Russia.

He said that in discussions with other representatives in Washington of Latin American states he had found unanimity of opinion that it would be a great mistake to go to another meeting with the idea of simply adopting further resolutions, and almost equal unanimity for the idea that the time had come to adopt some program contemplating concrete action.

ARA:HFHolland:mk

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